



A Letter of the Lord *North*, touching  
*Thirlow School.*

For Sir *Henry North.*

*My Noble Friend and Kinsman ;*

**K** Nowing your worthy inclinations, judgement, love to Justice and Truth, with your industry and assidual exercise thereof in your course and Countrey.

Whereas by vertue of a Commission for Charitable Uses, ( so pretended by the procurers ) many *Suffolk*-Gentlemen of worth and quality have been named and employed, but mainly intended for the outing of a poor Village-Schoolmaster maligned upon private spleen and dislike: the Countrey being full of discourse and contest about the proceeding therein; I have judged fit to impart to you ( conversant with the best ) what I have met with by my diligent enquiry of the steps and agitations therein.

I was at first as much a stranger, as uninterested in the matter and parties; but hearing by common Fame somewhat of the ground and obliquity of intentions

A

against



against the Defendant, I became moved to a Christian commiseration, having received many Testimonies considerable on his behalf.

The Commission thus taken out, Complaints were upon the meanest sort of Neighbours, with their following Subscriptions, laboured for; and procured for a ground-work, and consequently a Jury provided in a place remote to pass upon the Evidence exhibited, which surprizingly produced a casting Verdict: both Jury and Commissioners ignorant of the concealed plot and practice, could not well but be swayed thereby: which I finding as yet but an imperfect Embrion toward a Decree (by some my writing) interposed, offered some preventing informations and considerations; whereupon to avoid subsequent trouble, charge and disgraces, but nothing prevailing, a Decree past as well against others, as the Schoolmaster, much unexpected to be drawn in. This undermining Stratagem was thus broached and carried on.

Mr. *Thomas Bucke* on our Lords day after Sermon called together the Inhabitants of Little *Thirlow*, tendering them a Writing to subscribe against Mr. *Holmes*, which some refusing, lost his favour, and their dinner.

Other prolings there were about the Countrey for hands upon specious pretexts, meeting also some refusals.

In the appointed meeting of the Commissioners divers suspected of non-concurrence had no warning, who after knowledge complained, and met with the rest at a more indifferent place; but finding Resolution much taken, and Conclusions framed upon the preceding Verdict, desisted to appear *at the next meeting*, though offended at the premisses. After



After Verdict, some Counsel was heard to plead, al-  
 ledging how improper the business was to the Com-  
 mission, as more belonging to the Ecclesiastical trial,  
 after the Diocefans Licence, with much more: also  
*Sir Thomas Soame* a Trustee not having power to trans-  
 mit to *Mr. Buck* who had nothing to do in the Case,  
 much less to examine sufficiency which he assumed,  
 and upon the Defendants refusal to submit, offence  
 was taken, though had he done otherwise, he had shew-  
 ed himself poorly simple; after what his Admission,  
 Exercise, and divers years Teaching had priviledged  
 him, rather to examine his Boyes, then to be so exa-  
 mined. Whom one of the Electors, *Mr. Owen*, had  
 harboured long in his house, and upon his knowledge  
 of his Capacity chose him Schoolmaster, however now  
 upon particular Quarrel hath laboured against him,  
 and for occasion of exception withdrew his Children  
 from his Teaching.

He, *Mr. Buck*, and *Mr. Soame* of *Little Bradley* have  
 been the prime Movers in this rare project, which *Mr.*  
*Soame* hath since acknowledged in himself, and now  
 reconciled upon a difference he had with *Mr. Holmes*,  
 and finding the disgraces urged on against *Sir Thomas*  
 his Kinsman and others, extraordinarily dissents and  
 disapproves. Never was so poor a matter managed with  
 so much Artifice and Industry.

*Mr. Holmes* was conceived Friendless, and, by undue  
 withholding his Stipend, Pennyless; easie to be outed,  
 disgraced, and undone at the first Assault. But God  
 hath raised friends unto him, and the disgrace may fall  
 somewhere else.



The Clamor ceaseth in great part, and both Great *Thirlow* and many of Little *Thirlow* (where the School is) disavow, as approving of Mr. *Holmes*, who finding the strong bent against him, offered upon reasonable Terms, with payment of Arrears due for serving in the School, to quit and quiet all. In sort that the Commissioners took much satisfaction, and employed to Mr. *Buck* some of themselves to draw him to acceptance, but he refused, having been at great Charge to pay himself with the money in his hands.

I to my cost made way to his ends, and end of trouble, nothing prevailing, all must down before him for a new model, inexorable, without remorse either to himself or others.

\* I had in  
pity and fa-  
vour made  
Mr. Holmes  
my Chap-  
lain.

Mr. *Holmes* he terms a Nocent, and me by consequence for my Charity not Innocent \*; I think by his fair professions he would willingly have stopped my mouth, but cannot stop his own: if I have erred it is with good company, but till Mr. *Holmes* be farther convinced to deserve that Malefactor Term, I will not be ashamed of my good intents.

I intended to insert the Tenor of Sir *Stephen's* Will concerning his School, with the Decree exceeding the prayer of the Petition for Ejectment; also Doctor *Dillingham's* Letters in vindication of himself against aspersions, and asserting Mr. *Holmes* his good Ability, with Mr. *Buck* his sollicitation to place him Schoolmaster, convincing him of an Eminent activity which now he denies, making himself passive; moreover Doctor *King's*, and others certifying in writing for Mr. *Holmes* his well-deserving, with some Letters of mine own at large tending to pacification in good offers complying



plying with Mr. *Buck's* first pretexts, but all fruitless, and would prove too tedious; wherefore I must leave them to your discreet Comprehension from this half Light, reserving to your farther satisfaction, upon demand, a Volume of papers conducing to clear the truth of all that is affirmed.

*A kind of continued Characters of divers worthy persons sleighted, Assertors for Mr. Holmes.*

Mr. Doctor *Dillingham* Master of *Clare-Hall*, where Mr. *Holmes* had been Graduate, several times Vice-Chancellor.

Mr. Doctor *King* Master of *Trinity-Hall*, well reputed, learned, and a chief Neighbour in *Great Thirlow*.

Mr. *Billingsley* Minister of *Great Bradley*, near Neighbour on the other side, honest, learned, and preceding Schoolmaster in *Thirlow-School*.

Mr. *Chambers* Minister of *West-Putting*, inhabitant in *Great Bradly*.

Mr. *Morden* of the said Town, an understanding and well-esteemed Gentleman, with other his Conscribers to a favourable Certificate in the Rise of the Business.

*Standing Electors according to Sir Stephen Soame his Will, laid by to a new Modell.*

Mr. *Hovsman* Minister of *Great Thirlow*, a well famed and learned able Judge for such a concernment, ejected for.



for being essential to all Elections, though won by me to assent to a new one, without breach of the Will, such as the prosecutors would place.

Mr. Owen of Thirlow, *parum* adverse to Mr. Holmes, but as is conceived expecting advantage.

Sir Thomas Soame surviving Executor to the Care of the School, in modesty finding a fairly recommended and orderly placed man by the two Electing-Neighbour-Ministers in the office of Schoolmaster, more competent to judge than himself living far off; but knowingly by a silent approbation assenting, after having been much abused and misled by his suffering himself to become instrumental to the plot; though professing now to me to have nothing that he would alledge in disparagement of Mr. Holmes, ( who had been much and wrongfully traduced in pretended disrespects towards him ) is now disgracefully turned out from his Father's institution, in recompence of having served the Contrivers as an useful property.

*Some preceding active Characters are omitted.*

As also a foul scurrillous Libel reflecting upon divers of the above-named, with one *Reyner* formerly in deep difference with Mr. Buck, which hangs in charge against some of the most Eminent.

Mr. Holmes was mainly accused through the whole Train of illiterate insufficiency to the learned Country Jury: but the more wise Commissioners found ground enough to compose the Decree without it.

After



After all this, Mr. *Buck* pretends great kindness expressed to Mr. *Holmes*, and respect to me; excelling in his Language, unanswerable in his proceedings.

I have troubled you and my self too much in so poor and unworthy a business, but I affect your right information.

Thus much for a Narrative manifest, and my Apology, pardon my haste and confusion in this dark intricate scene, and know me ever,

*Your most affectionate*

*Kinsman and Servant,*

Dudley North

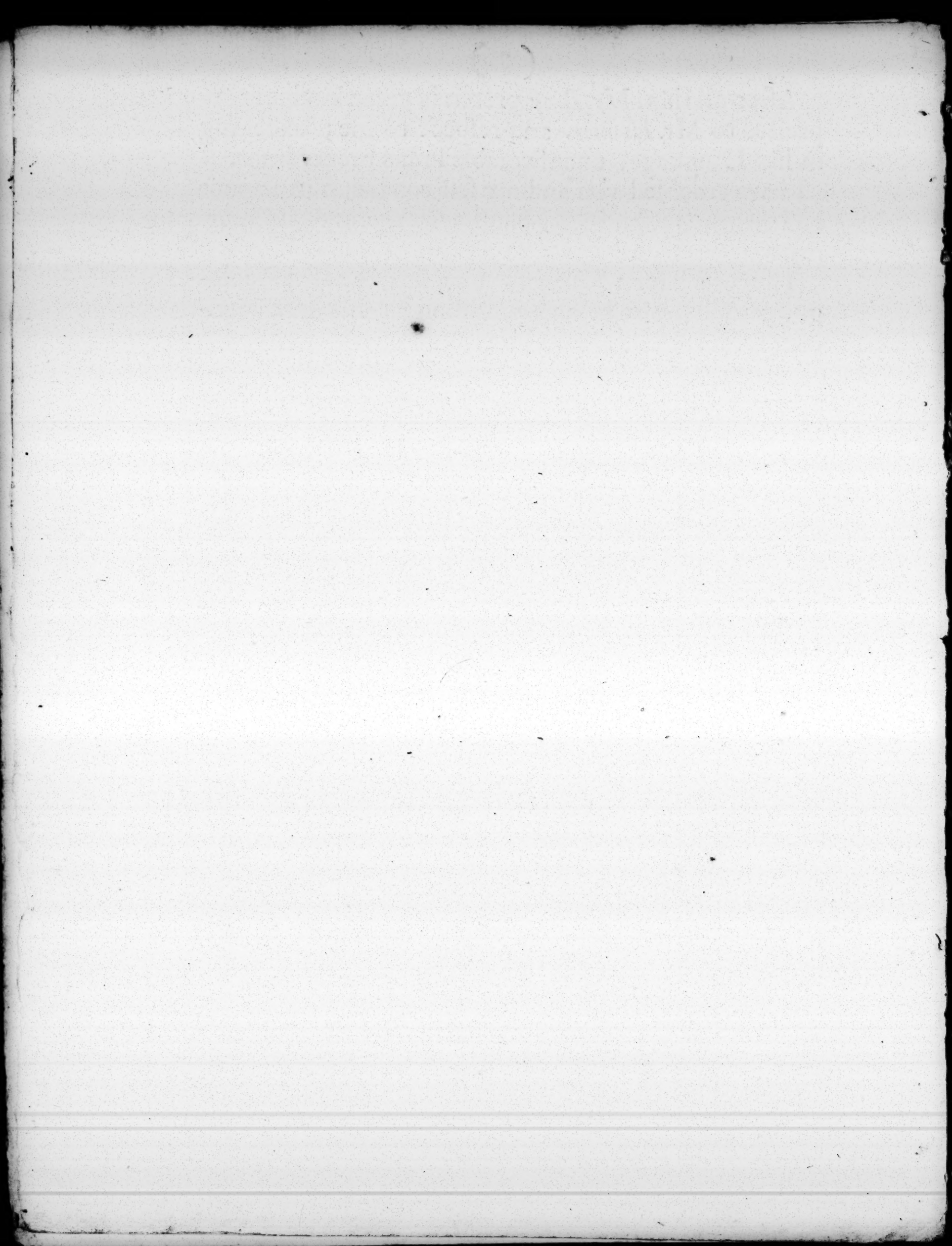
To avoid trouble and mistakings of writing, I am contented to print some few Copies for choice friends.

March 26.  
1666.

An Appeal, as a last Anchor, is necessitated and goes on.

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**T**O pass by all Mr. *Bucks* Arts for the ouing Mr. *Holmes* from being Schoolmaster at *Thurlow*, where he divers years taught by Mr. *Bucks* active concurrence in placing him, and wherein he had so wrought by stirring up the meanest Inhabitants (all otherwise quiet) and thereby Sir *Tho: Soame* also against him, from whom he derived to himself a delegated, transmitted power of managing the Ejectment, &c. Having otherwise no colour of his own right to act therein. Which his ill-grounded Cunning, made most credibly known unto me, moved me in Christian Charity and Compassion to appear as far as I well might in favor to prevent the effects of that ruinous Plot, laid against *Holmes*, and trenching to the disgrace of many well famed and respectable persons, who had appeared on his behalf, which I have industriously done, by words, Letters, and addresses from the entrance into the business in all constancy even until this present day; patiently hoping (but by unreasonable obstinacy failing) of my peaceable desires, which the following Letters successively (though not successfully) continued, will demonstrate, and for my own satisfaction, I have thought good to gather in their Series and order together, in relation to my Letter to Sir *Henry North* for his Information.

*Gentlemen.*

Whom it may concern I was desired to write formerly in the behalf of Mr. *Holmes*, yet Schoolmaster of *Thurlow*,  
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but



but refused it, as averse from meddling in others Interest, yet from thus much I would not contain my self, That upon the constant testimonial of many of my honest, well-famed and Judicious Neighbours, who well know him and are able to judge I understand not any thing of enormously scandalous or incompetent for the place, which he hath divers years exercised, in which sense, nothing doubting of the Justice and just inclinations of the worthy Commissioners joyned in the examination of perversions from Charitable uses, ( wherein how far schools are intended I conceive not ) except in withholding what hath been given for their maintenance : I do zealously certify in Christian Neighbourhood, that for want of some formalities or small exceptions from which no man is exempt, and without fair admonition, I cannot but hope that the main Defendant, and they who have both placed him and continued him so long time, shall not suffer disgrace, in which assurance I subscribe as to all causes that I conceive fair and good

*Nov. 6. 1665.*

*Du. North.*

*Mr. Buck.*

I Acknowledge the favor of your last visit, which being neer dark in the evening, my self in my Chamber engaged to some Physick, yet I delayed not but friendly and freely entertained you in patient long hearing and answering you, in the way which I had formerly appeared intend-



intending to peace and a fair undilgraceful way in the prosecution of the businels concerning Mr. *Holmes*, wherein many considerable men were involved by what they had declared in his behalf : But all my open hearted inclinations as to a Brother were so ineffectual, that the subsequent prosecutions were rather more than less furious, carryed on not only against him, but others who had either brought or suffered him to teach in *Thurlow-School*, I imagine you would never have troubled yourself unconcerned therein with much cost and prejudice to your health, had not some others spleen urged and wrought over much upon you, and bred such an overflowing of your gall, as (if yet not prevented) may stayn your Complexion and Reputation, and if (which was much) the outing of the School-master might have satisfied, it was offered, which many of your friends would have had you accept, but you were so far from it, that all must down who conceived all done according to the Founders will, strange that after four years teaching the Teachers capacity should be questioned, other objections being small and no admonition given: your self party to the Introduction, and till lately taking no exceptions *tantæne animis Cælestibus iræ?* my strong information of a shameful ruine, and utter undoing plotted against him, not only detaining his due stipend, but a fine urged upon him as an Intruder, moved me in Christianity (though a meer stranger) to compassion, helping to ease his fall upon my own Shoulders, making him my Chaplain, and helping him in some subsistence, whereby I am now become concerned in my choice, and his disgrace, and howsoever you may in the present triumph, yet in his appeal and the world posselt with the Artifice



and carriage of the business, you will not find your self at so fair an end as possibly in your reduction of the Defendants poor necessitous Condition you may have conceived. Men of worth are interested, the Esquier Natural Visitor not consulted, may relent and expect to be heard, and all this as yet you may notwithstanding recollect, and suspend execution, prevent farther trouble and disgrace with your own quiet inward and outward, which your great Age and Infirmary much require, and stand fairer in wonted estimation than threatens. I have heard you intend me the favor of another visit for my clear Information: which if you do, and come with a mind more disposed to peace than rigor, hard heartedness and persecution, it will joy my open abounding heart with recompence to this your and my trouble, and send us in quiet and good Conscience towards our Graves, which is the Prayer of

*Written in haste this  
26. of Dec. 1665.*

*Your affectionate friend and well  
wisher to serve you  
Du, North.*

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*Good Mr. Buck.*

**O**Nce more and no more I presume to trouble you in my well wishes to you peace and a fair end of the ill-sounding engagement, thanking you for your yesterdaies obliging favor in good expressions to me, wherein



wherein your good will to me abounds, I would your passion did not more abound, I yet appeal to your farther and cooler consideration, you have had already too much trouble and cost, inflame and increase it not, whilst it may be fairly avoided, you seek the performance of the will of the Founder, and the good effect of it, in the free and sufficient teaching of a School for the good institution of Neighbours Children, the present introduced Master you except against, his willingness and my compliance to your design give you satisfaction therein, and an expedient of placing another as you would wish, therein is the will of the dead and the charitable intention accomplished. But in the progress you urge an Insuper invading, breaking the Tenor and trenching upon the Will, improperly and unnecessarily, by disgracing the surviving Executor, a tacit modest concurrent to the pursuance of the Will, in the placing Mr. *Holms* as Master by the standing Electors of the two *Thurlowes*, whose sufficiency might well be presumed on, as Schollars, Neighbours, and Ministers ejected, and disgracing them, without any visible transgression, think better on it and suppose not any of the Commissioners or any good intelligent body will prove offended at so fair and peaceable an end, and that farther charge, altercation, and trouble, be not wedded to an invincible sense of your own, but gratifie all parties concerned, for me if my endeavours to peace miscarry, yet with Gods good acceptance I regret them not but rest in my pacifick meaning,

*Jan. 3. 1665.*

Sir,

*Your most affectionate  
Friend, Du. North.*



Mr. Buck.

**Y**OU have given me occasion to write to you beyond my meaning, finding my self to have lost much labor and good will by not prevailing the least tittle with you in any thing that I have said or written, but now you having told Dr. *Bolderough* that since my seeing him you had given me satisfaction: It is a misinformation, for I am not in the least point satisfied with your proceedings, and very little in your sayings: You have named to him my Son as one of your Commissioners who never sate, and divers had they had timely notice and fitting would have been far from being carryed away by your blinding surprizing artifices; I grieve to see so many worthy Gentlemen misled by importuned subscriptions, and a present prepared Jury who could not but judge according to what appeared unto them; but all is yet *pendente lite*: the Appeal to come, you have also lately failed in your promise made in my house though not in my presence that you would presently pay Mr. *Holmes* forty and five pounds of his arrears in your hands, which when he came to receive you refused to do upon pretence, that young Mr. *Soames* was landed and now (though never before) to be consulted, you have been at strange cost and trouble more than incumbent upon you, which you have thrust your self into, nor indeed if you would have taken the shortest and directest way, by an ecclesiastical tryal of him, who was licensed to keep a School by the Lord Bishop, and had many strong and considerable testimonies of his sufficiency thereunto, all slighted and passed by, though most competent to have judged betwixt a Teacher and his Scholars;



lars; His taking money hath been objected, which is denied except of such Towns as were not specified by the Will to have priviledge; now had he notice of the terms of the Will fully till very lately, which was also concealed from Mr. *Buck* himself. And if any thing hath been taken through ignorance he hath offered to repay it, Mr. *Holmes* was put in upon pursuance of the Will, exercised the duty required many years without exception. And whereas great negligence is taxed upon him, he is ready to justify the contrary having never considerably absented himself, but once in a Christmas time, and that little more than a Moneth, three weeks cessation being ordinary to all Schools, and even then he had taken care to have his place supplied, against his disrespect (alleged) to Sir *Tho. Soame*, he can fully justify himself, as also in refusing before the Commissioners to be examined by Mr. *Buck* or his Assigns, wherein he had otherwise done most basely and fillily: But you have not lost your cost and ends, for you may have him out and others in, at your choice, the Will stand inviolate, the Countrey taught, Animosities and disgrace prevented, charge and trouble saved, and good men satisfied; Sir *Thomas Soame* upon whom your workings have prevailed to give you colour of power not cast out in recompence. These are the good effects you may attain by not pursuing your Decree, and my self, whom you would render not innocent by countenancing a Nocent remain your friend,

Jan. 29. 1665.

Du. North.



*Noble Dr.**Buckenham.*

I Never admired any thing more than Mr. *Bucks* inconsistent intellectuals and obstinate malice in blind and blinding Arts for the overthrow of a poor Village School-master placed upon his own sollicitation and paid and allowed by him, for above two years when he stirred up and pick't a Quarrel against him, the ill favour whereof flew so about the Countrey, that I upon credible testimonies of *Holms* his good capacity and carriage (though a stranger to the man and matter,) took it to heart in Christian compassion, industriously interposing what I could to effect a right understanding, and prevent a charge trouble and consequent disgrace to such as had appeared for him, or were otherwise interested with importunate perswasions, to Mr. *Buck* of his being il-grounded, yet complying with him so far as to produce his ends both in removing *Holmes* and bringing another, all in vain; After much contest with him, one repaying to me asked me, if I would have any thing, I answered only this, *cui bono* all this cost and trouble? at last I became indeed interested at least in reputation, as my Letter to Sir *Henry North* mentions. *Buck* hath slighted many fair proffers for a peaceable desistence and retraite, hath put jeering and threatening upon me, if I persisted in laying him and my self open, it but the more animates me, it can be but honor to me and shame to him, nor am I of a consistence to fear any thing that Man, or dare or can say against me, the more this puddle is stirred the worse the vapor, they who refuse peace and quiet. It belongs to them to suffer in the contrary, but of others *quid meruere*. To *Buck* belongs



(9)

longs the blame, who may clear the stage and leave all  
in *statu quo*: nor Law nor good men but will rather joy  
than be offended in a good agreement: *Buck-bears* shall  
not fright

*Catledge June 26, 1666.*

Your affectionate Friend  
to serve you,  
Du. North.

Thus much in my good respect to you, who as I hear  
never sealed to the Decree, I presume to send you what  
I assure my self you have heard of, if not seen my Letter  
to *Sir Henry North*.

*Mr. Thomas Buck* hath so acted as Substitute to *Sir  
Thomas Soams* in his executory power to his Fathers Will,  
as cannot but conclude through the whole agitation con-  
cerning *Thurlow School*, as well for placing as displacing:  
*Sir Thomas* must be implicitly concurring thereunto, else  
*Mr. Buck* must have been a strange Intruder without the  
least Authority in what he hath assumed.

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*My Good Dr.*

*Paman.*

Pardon my presumption, who affect to be more and  
more yours by this your farther courtesy, I am a  
great exalter of Charity (if not exerciser of it) nor doubt  
of your concurrence: I have in word, writing, and deed,  
extraordinarily shewed it in the business betwixt *Holms*  
and *Buck*, manifoldly and importunately laboring peace

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and



and prevention of charge, trouble, animosities and disgraces, but rancor and invincible spight hath frustrated my endeavours, ( wherein failing ) *Bucks* crafty and malicious steps have been gathered through his whole course, and are ready to be proved and Printed, which I have hitherto stopped expecting his recipiscence, but his most uncharitable intents cloaked with Charity continuing, and a costly course of Appeal enforced *Holms*, ( whole stipend *Buck* hath since his quarrel withheld ) though placed by his desire and payed by him for divers years reduced to great want, having forbore to sue or seek for his right, until the heirs return, to whom he constantly referred himself as his proper pay-master and Natural overseer, I can do no less than intercede for the Laborers hyre, who rather than not to prosecute his vindicating himself against undeserved disgrace and utter ruine, must be enforced to be received in *forma pauperis*. Oblige me in your assistance & imparting thus much to the Esquier and procuring his answer to me herein, *Mr. Buck* hath complained to *Dr. Dillingham*, more remiss and submiss than formerly, and imploring his advise, in this his misfortune and exigent, who told him he might desist if he would relent, which he may yet do, nor the Law nor any good man will be offended in a peaceable agreement and conclusion. Blessed are the Peacemakers, no man will be a looser thereby, disgraces avoided, the Founders Will inviolated, and nothing but malice defeated, this is easy and obvious, and a good peace never too late. The Angels sang Glory to God, and peace on earth, good will towards men, better than libelling and disgracing Churchmen. I have written and said much in vain, may this prove more successful with my service



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vice to my kinsman and all good affection, to your  
self I rest in haste.

Jan. 21. 1666.

Your really respectful  
Friend to serve you,  
Du. North.

Now *fiat justitia & currat lex*: I am resolved to trouble my self no more, but leave Mr. *Holms* to be Schoolmaster at *Thurlow*, *Rectus in Curia* or a disgraced undone man, withdrawing my self and all those offers that I would have contributed to a fair peaceable end, they go now for nothing, as retracted and fruitless.

July 2. 1666.

Du. North.

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